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9 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
10 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

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13 ***IN RE WELLS FARGO MORTGAGE***
14 ***DISCRIMINATION LITIGATION***

15 Case No. 3:22-cv-00990-JD

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18 **THE *PERKINS* PLAINTIFFS' RENEWED**
19 **PROPOSAL TO APPOINT AMANDA M.**
20 **WILLIAMS AND ABOU B. AMARA, JR.**
21 **OF GUSTAFSON GLUEK PLLC AS**
22 **INTERIM LEAD COUNSEL FOR THE**
23 **PUTATIVE PLAINTIFF CLASS.**

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25 **ORAL ARGUMENT REQUESTED**

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28 The *Perkins* Plaintiffs' Memorandum of Law in Support of Their Renewed Proposal to Appoint Amanda M.
Williams, Esq. and Abou B. Amara, Jr., Esq., of Gustafson Gluek PLLC as Interim Lead Counsel in *In Re Wells*
Fargo Mortgage Discrimination Litigation.

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 Despite opposition from some Plaintiff groups, on January 18, 2023, this Court wisely
 3 consolidated this case¹ with the five² other related cases into a single action, and noted the need
 4 for interim lead counsel to be appointed. Plaintiffs Elretha Perkins and Laronica Johnson (“*Perkins*
 5 Plaintiffs”) respectfully renew their request that this Court appoint Amanda M. Williams, Esq. and
 6 Abou B. Amara, Jr., Esq. of Gustafson Gluek PLLC (“Gustafson Gluek” or “Firm”) as interim
 7 lead counsel for the putative plaintiff class. Unlike some Plaintiffs’ counsel in this action, Ms.
 8 Williams and Mr. Amara have sought to protect the interests of all putative class members—from
 9 the beginning.

10 For the last two decades, courts across the country have appointed Gustafson Gluek
 11 attorneys to serve as lead counsel in numerous complex class action cases involving some of the
 12 largest institutions in the world. Gustafson Gluek attorneys have recovered *billions* in damages
 13 on behalf of class members, and are routinely recognized for their exceptional class wide
 14 representation. Appointing Ms. Williams and Mr. Amara as interim lead counsel for the putative
 15 plaintiff class will ensure that discovery and other pretrial matters will be handled in the best
 16 interest of all putative class members, and that every class member receives stellar representation
 17 throughout the course of this litigation.

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 25 ¹ *Perkins v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.*, No. 3:22-cv-03455-JD (“*Perkins*”).

26 ² *Williams v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.*, No. 3:22-cv-00990-JD (“*Williams*”); *Braxton v. Wells Fargo*
 27 *Bank, N.A.*, No. 3:22-cv-01748-JD (“*Braxton*”); *Pope v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.*, No. 3:22-cv-
 28 01793-JD (“*Pope*”); *Thomas v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.*, No. 3:22-cv-01931-JD (“*Thomas*”); and
Ebo v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., No. 3:22-cv-02535-JD (“*Ebo*”).

The *Perkins* Plaintiffs’ Memorandum of Law in Support of Their Renewed Proposal to Appoint Amanda M. Williams, Esq. and Abou B. Amara, Jr., Esq., of Gustafson Gluek PLLC as Interim Lead Counsel in *In Re Wells Fargo Mortgage Discrimination Litigation*.

1 **II. RELEVANT PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

2 On June 10, 2022, the *Perkins* Plaintiffs filed a class action complaint against Wells Fargo
 3 Bank, N.A. and Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. (“Wells Fargo Defendants” or “Bank”) for
 4 alleged discriminatory practices in mortgage lending. *Perkins* ECF No. 1. On August 5, 2022,
 5 the Wells Fargo Defendants moved to consolidate the *Perkins* case with five other related cases.
 6 Master ECF No. 63.

7 Plaintiffs in the six related cases took differing positions on the Bank’s consolidation
 8 motion. Two of the six parties—the *Williams* and *Braxton* Plaintiffs—opposed consolidation.
 9 *Williams* ECF No. 71; *Braxton* ECF No. 52. The *Braxton* Plaintiffs also made clear that their
 10 lawyers do not want to represent all putative class members in this litigation. *See Braxton* ECF
 11 No. 45, p.1 (stating that their counsel does “**not** seek to be appointed interim counsel for
 12 prospective borrowers who were allegedly discriminated outside of the refinancing process . . . nor
 13 do they seek to represent non-Black homeowners allegedly discriminated against on grounds of
 14 race.”). By contrast, the *Perkins* Plaintiffs, along with the *Ebo*, *Pope*, and *Thomas* Plaintiffs,
 15 supported consolidation and sought interim lead counsel to represent the entire putative plaintiff
 16 class. *Perkins* ECF Nos. 38 (consolidation) & 39 (interim lead counsel); *Pope* ECF No. 29
 17 (indicating position of *Ebo*, *Pope*, and *Thomas* Plaintiffs on consolidation and interim lead
 18 counsel).

19 On October 20, 2022, this Court ordered the six parties to submit a joint statement
 20 proposing a consolidation structure. Master ECF No. 93. On January 18, 2023, this Court ordered
 21 consolidation of all six related cases, *see id.*, at No. 102, and authorized parties to renew their
 22 interim lead counsel applications, observing that “[i]nterim counsel is warranted for this
 23

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1 consolidated action, but the current applications did not have an opportunity to address who that
 2 should be now that consolidation will be into a single case.” *Id.*, ¶ 12.

3 **III. LEGAL STANDARD**

4 Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure authorizes a court to designate interim
 5 counsel during the pre-certification period if necessary to protect the interests of the putative class.

6 *In re LinkedIn Advertising Metrics Litigation*, No. 20-cv-08324-SVK, 2021 WL 1599289, at *1
 7 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 23, 2021) (quoting *Azpeitia v. Tesoro Refining & Marketing Co., LLC*, 2017 WL
 8 4071368, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 14, 2017) (internal quotations omitted)).

9
 10 “Although Rule 23(g)(3) does not provide a standard for appointment of interim counsel,
 11 courts typically look to the factors used in determining the adequacy of class counsel under Rule
 12 23(g)(1)(A).” *In re Seagate Technology LLC Litigation*, No. 16-cv-00523-RMW, 2016 WL
 13 3401989, at *2 (N.D. Cal. June 21, 2016). Those factors include: (i) the work counsel has done in
 14 identifying or investigating potential claims in the action; (ii) counsel's experience in handling
 15 class actions, other complex litigation, and the types of claims asserted in the action; (iii) counsel's
 16 knowledge of the applicable law; and (iv) the resources that counsel will commit to representing
 17 the class. *Id.* (citing Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(g)(1)(A)). Courts may also consider “any other matter
 18 pertinent to counsel's ability to fairly and adequately represent the interests of the class.” *Id.* (citing
 19 Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(g)(1)(B)). As demonstrated below, after considering these factors, and one
 20 additional factor, Amanda Williams and Abou Amara from Gustafson Gluek should be appointed.

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 The *Perkins* Plaintiffs' Memorandum of Law in Support of Their Renewed Proposal to Appoint Amanda M.
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 Fargo Mortgage Discrimination Litigation*.

1 **IV. ARGUMENT**2 **A. This Court Should Appoint Amanda M. Williams and Abou B. Amara, Jr., of
3 Gustafson Gluek PLLC, as Interim Lead Counsel for the Putative Plaintiff Class.**4

First, Amanda Williams and Abou Amara have expended an immense amount of time,
5 resources, and energy identifying and investigating the claims in this case. Ms. Williams and Mr.
6 Amara began investigating the Wells Fargo Defendants on a different, but related, matter in 2021.

7

See Amanda M. Williams Decl., ¶ 5. (“Williams Decl.”). Gustafson Gluek’s investigation on this
8 matter has included direct conversations with over 100 potential plaintiffs—in 13 states—who
9 notified the Firm of the discriminatory interactions they experienced while seeking home loan
10 financing with the Wells Fargo Defendants. *Id.*, ¶ 6. As a result, Gustafson Gluek already
11 possesses several documents that provide key insights and an understanding of how the financial
12 giant corresponds with home loan seekers. *Id.*, ¶ 7.

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Gustafson Gluek also consulted with six expert organizations in housing policy, housing
14 finance, and social justice advocacy. *Id.*, ¶ 8. These consultations have assisted the Firm in
15 identifying several published reports and research in housing finance that will inform the creation
16 of any subsequent complaints, discovery requests, and establishing facts prior to class certification.
17 *Id.* These reports include: (i) *2022 Fair Housing Trends Report*, National Fair Housing Alliance³;
18 (ii) *Consumer-Lending Discrimination in the FinTech Era*, November 2019, Robert Bartlett, Adair
19 Morse, Richard Stanton, and Nancy Wallace, University of California at Berkley, Published by
20 the Journal of Financial Economics⁴; (iii) “*Data Point: 2020 Mortgage Market Activity and*

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³ *2022 Fair Housing Trends Report*, National Fair Housing Alliance,
26 <https://nationalfairhousing.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/2022-Fair-Housing-Trends-Report.pdf> (last visited February 7, 2023).27
28 ⁴ *Consumer-Lending Discrimination in the FinTech Era*, University of California at Berkley,
Journal of Financial Economics,
The Perkins Plaintiffs’ Memorandum of Law in Support of Their Renewed Proposal to Appoint Amanda M.
Williams, Esq. and Abou B. Amara, Jr., Esq., of Gustafson Gluek PLLC as Interim Lead Counsel in *In Re Wells
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1 *Trends*,” Office of Research Publication, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (2021)⁵; (iv) *The*
 2 *Attorney General’s 2020 Annual Report to Congress Pursuant to the Equal Credit Opportunity*
 3 *Act, Amendments of 1976*, U.S. Department of Justice (Sept. 2021)⁶; and (v) *Our America: The*
 4 *Equity Report*, ABC News.⁷ *Id.*, ¶ 9. To date, Ms. Williams and Mr. Amara have invested
 5 hundreds of hours into this case. *Id.*, ¶ 10.

7 Second, Ms. Williams, Mr. Amara, and the *Perkins* Plaintiffs’ legal team are highly
 8 experienced in class action litigation, knowledgeable in the applicable law, and qualified to serve
 9 as interim lead counsel for the putative class. *Id.*, ¶ 11. Over the last two decades, Gustafson
 10 Gluek has been appointed as lead class counsel and to related leadership positions in numerous
 11 complex class action cases across the country and has recovered *billions* of dollars on behalf of a
 12 myriad of injured class members. *Id.*, ¶ 12. Because of Gustafson Gluek’s extensive knowledge,
 13 experience, and success in the plaintiffs’ class action arena, courts across the country routinely
 14 appoint Gustafson Gluek attorneys to serve in leadership roles in complex class cases⁸ including:

- 17 • *Hogan v. Amazon, Inc.* (N.D. Ill.)
- 18 • *In re Interior Molded Doors Indirect Purchaser Antitrust Litig.* (E.D. Va.)

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 20 <https://faculty.haas.berkeley.edu/morse/research/papers/discrim.pdf> (last visited February 7,
 21 2023).

22 ⁵ *Data Point: 2020 Mortgage Market Activity and Trends*, Consumer Protection Financial Bureau,
 23 https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb_2020-mortgage-market-activity-trends_report_2021-08.pdf (last visited February 7, 2023).

24 ⁶ *The Attorney General’s 2020 Annual Report to Congress Pursuant to the Equal Credit*
 25 *Opportunity Act*, U.S. Department of Justice (Sept. 2021),
 26 <https://www.justice.gov/crt/page/file/1436056/download> (last visited February 7, 2023).

27 ⁷ *Our America: The Equity Report*, ABS News, <https://ouramericaabc.com/equity-report> (last
 28 visited February 7, 2023).

29 ⁸ See Williams Decl., ¶ 13; Ex. A.

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 31 Williams, Esq. and Abou B. Amara, Jr., Esq., of Gustafson Gluek PLLC as Interim Lead Counsel in *In Re Wells*
 32 *Fargo Mortgage Discrimination Litigation*.

- 1 • *In re Pork Antitrust Litig.* (D. Minn.)
- 2 • *In re: 3M Combat Arms Earplug Litig.* (Minn.)
- 3 • *In re DPP Beef Litig.* (D. Minn.)
- 4 • *In re Syngenta Litig.* (Minn.)
- 5 • *In re Broiler Chicken Antitrust Litig.* (N.D. Ill.)
- 6 • *Vikram Bhatia, D.D.S., et al., v. 3M Company* (D. Minn.)
- 7 • *In re Medtronic, Inc. Sprint Fidelis Leads Products Liability Litig.* (D. Minn.)
- 8 • *In re DRAM Antitrust Litig.* (N.D. Cal. and multiple state court actions)
- 9 • *In re Medtronic, Inc. Implantable Defibrillators Products Liability Litig.* (D. Minn.)
- 10 • *St. Barnabas Hospital, Inc. et al. v. Lundbeck, Inc. et al.* (D. Minn.)
- 11 • *In re Vitamin C Antitrust Litig.* (E.D.N.Y.)
- 12 • *Precision Assocs., Inc. v. Panalpina World Transport (Holding) Ltd.* (E.D.N.Y.)
- 13 • *Deere & Company Repair Services Antitrust Litig.* (N.D. Ill.)
- 14 • *In re Crop Inputs Antitrust Litig.* (E.D. Mo.)
- 15 • *Powell Prescription Center, et al. v. Surescripts, LLC et al.* (N.D. Ill.)

18 In addition to the extensive complex class action and civil rights experience that Gustafson
 19 Gluek has as a firm, the individuals who comprise the *Perkins* Plaintiffs' litigation team also bring
 20 extensive and unique personal experiences to this case. For this matter, Gustafson Gluek's team
 21 will be led by Ms. Williams who has been litigating class action cases for nearly two decades.
 22 Williams Decl., ¶ 14. Ms. Williams has played an active role as plaintiffs' counsel in the following
 23 cases⁹:

- 24 • *In re Medtronic, Inc., Implantable Defibrillators Prod. Liab. Litig.* (D. Minn.)

28 ⁹ Williams Decl., ¶ 14.

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- 1 • *In re Syngenta Litig.* (Minn.)
- 2 • *In re Asacol Antitrust Litig.* (D. Mass.)
- 3 • *Ciofoletti et al. v. Securian Financial Group, Inc.* (D. Minn.)
- 4 • *Reed, et al. v. Advocate Health Care, et al.* (N.D. Ill.)
- 5 • *Graves v. 3M Company Earplugs Litig.* (Minn.)
- 6 • *In re Medtronic Inc. Sprint Fidelis Leads Prod. Liab. Litig.* (D. Minn.)
- 7 • *Karsjens et al v. Jesson* (D. Minn.)
- 8 • St. Jude (*Pinsonneault v. St. Jude Medical, Inc., et al.* (D. Minn.); *Houlette v. St. Jude Medical Inc., et al.* (D. Minn.); *Rouse v. St. Jude Medical, Inc., et al.* (D. Minn.))
- 9 • *Jessica Robinson v. Jackson Hewitt, Inc., et al.* (E.D. Va.)
- 10 • *American Home Realty Network* (Regional Multiple Listing Service of Minnesota, Inc., d/b/a NorthstarMLS v. American Home Realty Network, Inc., (D. Minn.));
- 11 • *Metropolitan Regional Information Systems, Inc., v. American Home Realty Network, Inc.* (D. Md.)
- 12 • *Preferred Carolinas Realty, Inc., v. American Home Realty Network, Inc., d/b/a Neighborcity.com* (M.D.N.C.))

19 Ms. Williams has recently been appointed to leadership roles in *In re 3M Combat Arms*
 20 *Litig.* (Henn. Cty. Minn.) and the *In re American Medical System, Inc., Litig.* (Henn. Cty. Minn.),
 21 and was named to the trial team in the *In re Syngenta Litig.* (Henn. Cty. Minn.). Williams Decl.,
 22 ¶ 15.

23 In addition to her practice, Ms. Williams currently serves on the Board of the Infinity
 24 Project, an organization whose mission is to increase the gender diversity of Minnesota's state and
 25 federal benches. *Id.*, ¶ 16. In 2017 and 2022, Ms. Williams was named an "Attorney of the Year"

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1 by the *Minnesota Lawyer* publication and has been continuously recognized as a *Super Lawyer*.

2 *Id.*

3 Ms. Williams will be joined by Mr. Amara, who is a plaintiffs' class action litigator with
 4 experience in antitrust, civil rights, consumer protection, and products liability. *Id.*, ¶ 17. Mr.
 5 Amara presently is active counsel in the following cases¹⁰:

- 7 • *In Re Beef Antitrust Litig.* (D. Minn.)
- 8 • *In Re Broiler Chicken Antitrust Litig.* (N.D. Ill.)
- 9 • *In Re Pork Antitrust Litig.* (D. Minn.)
- 10 • *Roamingwood Sewer v. National Diversified Sales* (M.D. Pa.)

12 Prior to joining Gustafson Gluek, Mr. Amara was a civil rights and employment attorney
 13 at a Minneapolis law firm and served as a judicial law clerk on the Minnesota Supreme Court.
 14 Williams Decl., ¶ 18. In addition, Mr. Amara's experience in housing extends beyond the practice
 15 of law. *Id.*, ¶ 19. For nearly a decade before entering private practice, Mr. Amara worked on
 16 housing policy, among other issues, before Congress and in the Minnesota State Legislature. *Id.*
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18 Mr. Amara was named a "Rising Star" by *Super Lawyers* for his class action litigation
 19 practice and an "Up and Coming Attorney" by the *Minnesota Lawyer* publication. *Id.*, ¶ 20. He
 20 was also named the 2021-2022 *Outstanding New Lawyer of the Year* by the Minnesota State Bar
 21 Association. *Id.* Mr. Amara is presently the Vice President of the Minnesota Association of Black
 22 Lawyers, is an active member of the American Bar Association's "Black Squad" Antitrust Group,
 23 and serves on a host committee of the National Bar Association, the national association active on
 24 behalf of African American lawyers. *Id.*
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 28 ¹⁰ Williams Decl., ¶ 17.

The Perkins Plaintiffs' Memorandum of Law in Support of Their Renewed Proposal to Appoint Amanda M. Williams, Esq. and Abou B. Amara, Jr., Esq., of Gustafson Gluek PLLC as Interim Lead Counsel in *In Re Wells Fargo Mortgage Discrimination Litigation*.

1 Longtime California attorney, Gustafson Gluek's Dennis Stewart will assist the team. Mr.
 2 Stewart has worked for over 30 years almost exclusively representing plaintiff classes in complex
 3 litigation, including as a partner at Hulett Harper Stewart's San Diego, California office and as a
 4 trial attorney with the Justice Department.¹¹ *Id.*, ¶ 21. Mr. Stewart's experience with the banking
 5 industry includes serving as lead counsel, principal counsel and/or trial counsel in class action
 6 litigation against, among others, Wells Fargo, in cases involving interchange fees and currency
 7 conversion fees. *Id.* Mr. Stewart has tried class action cases and representative actions against the
 8 NCAA, Visa and Mastercard, Johnson and Johnson, and others. *Id.*

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 10 *Third*, Gustafson Gluek has invested an immense amount of resources into this important
 11 case and is willing, and able, to continue doing so. Rule 23 requires a court to consider the
 12 resources proposed class counsel can, and will, commit to the prosecution of the class action. Fed.
 13 R. Civ. P. 23(g)(1)(A)(iv). Gustafson Gluek has offices in California and Minnesota and dedicates
 14 its entire practice to precisely this type of litigation: complex plaintiffs' class action litigation. *See*
 15 Williams Decl., ¶ 22; Ex. A. Gustafson Gluek has already committed itself to this case and has
 16 teamed up with two other law firms, Teske Katz PLLP of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the Scott
 17 Hirsch Law Group of Coconut Creek, Florida, to add any needed capacity. *Id.*, ¶ 23.
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23 ¹¹ Cases in which Mr. Stewart has served as lead, trial or one of the key counsel have netted
 24 settlements totaling in the billions of dollars. Mr. Stewart was one of the principal counsel (five
 25 firms comprising a leadership "group" of 3 lead counsel and two other firms) in *Payment Card*
26 Interchange Fee and Merchant Discount Antitrust Litigation, MDL 1720, in which a settlement of
 27 approximately \$5.6 billion was approved by the District Court and is currently on appeal to the
 28 United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He was also one of the counsel that litigated
 the *In re Currency Conversion Fee Litigation*, MDL 1409, in which a \$336 million dollar
 settlement was obtained based, in part, on a prior successful 6-month trial in California State Court
 against Visa and Mastercard which he led. *Schwartz v. Visa International*, No. 822404-4 (Alameda
 County Sup. Ct.), rev'd on other grounds, 34 Cal. Rptr. 3d 449 (2005).

The Perkins Plaintiffs' Memorandum of Law in Support of Their Renewed Proposal to Appoint Amanda M. Williams, Esq. and Abou B. Amara, Jr., Esq., of Gustafson Gluek PLLC as Interim Lead Counsel in *In Re Wells Fargo Mortgage Discrimination Litigation*.

1 Gustafson Gluek has a well-earned reputation for being able to work well with other
 2 counsel. *Id.*, ¶ 24. In the Firm's experience leading other complex litigation, drawing from diverse
 3 points of view and experience is invaluable and, as such, Gustafson Gluek is willing to work with
 4 other firms that have filed these cases. *Id.* There is a strong pool of resources available to the
 5 plaintiffs and potential class members but there needs to be strong leadership at the top to know
 6 how to utilize all of these resources effectively and efficiently. *Id.* Gustafson Gluek possesses the
 7 knowledge, resources, and commitment to do just that and to lead this case through to conclusion
 8 for all the plaintiffs impacted by the Bank's conduct. *Id.*

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 10 Gustafson Gluek's commitment to providing the resources necessary to effectively
 11 prosecute this action is equally matched by the Firm's commitment to judiciously be accountable
 12 for a detailed accounting of time, attorney staffing, hotel, and travel accommodations. *Id.*, ¶ 25.
 13 As the Firm has done in several cases before, Gustafson Gluek will implement extensive protocols
 14 to ensure costs and fees are not excessive and are contemporaneously recorded and reviewed. *Id.*
 15 These protocols will ensure Gustafson Gluek complies with the letter, and spirit of, the guidelines
 16 this Court set forth in its January 18, 2023 Order. *See* Master ECF No. 102, ¶ 13(a)-(h).

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 18 *Fourth*, as mentioned, courts may also consider any other matter pertinent to counsel's
 19 ability to fairly and adequately represent the interests of the class. *Supra* III. One matter that is
 20 directly pertinent is how, or whether at all, counsel has sought to protect the interests of the entire
 21 class to date. Central to their theory of the case, *Braxton* counsel—on multiple occasions—
 22 notified this Court that they do not want to protect the interests of all putative class members. *See*
 23 *Braxton* ECF No. 45, p. 1 (Plaintiffs notifying this Court that their lawyers do “**not** seek to be
 24 appointed interim counsel for prospective borrowers who were allegedly discriminated against
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1 outside of the refinancing process . . . nor do they seek to represent non-Black homeowners
 2 allegedly discriminated against on grounds of race.”).

3 Now that this Court seeks interim lead counsel to represent the interests of *all* putative
 4 plaintiffs in this matter, as a result of full consolidation, this Court should consider only leadership
 5 applicants who have expressed a willingness and desire to protect the interests of *all* putative
 6 plaintiffs at all points in this litigation. If this Court recognizes such a consideration, this would
 7 heavily weigh in favor of appointing Ms. Williams and Mr. Amara as lead counsel for this putative
 8 class. By *Braxton* counsel’s own admission, the *Perkins* Plaintiffs, and their counsel, pleaded the
 9 “largest and broadest” putative class to protect the interests of all. *See* 10/20/22 Hearing Tr. 9:14–
 10 15. From the beginning, Ms. Williams and Mr. Amara have sought to protect the largest group of
 11 plaintiffs allegedly harmed. This Court should recognize this as a consideration and weigh it
 12 heavily in favor of their appointment.

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14 **B. Alternatively, This Court Should Appoint an Interim Counsel Structure That**
Includes Gustafson Gluek, Among Others.

15 Although the *Perkins* Plaintiffs seek to have Ms. Williams and Mr. Amara appointed as
 16 sole interim lead counsel, the *Perkins* Plaintiffs, and their counsel, remain open to serving in a co-
 17 lead counsel capacity with any other firm this Court sees fit.

18

19 **V. CONCLUSION**

20 For the aforementioned reasons, the *Perkins* Plaintiffs respectfully renew their request that
 21 the Court appoint Ms. Williams and Mr. Amara of Gustafson Gluek as interim lead counsel for the
 22 putative plaintiff class in this consolidated action.

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1 Dated: February 13, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

2 /s/ Amanda M. Williams

3 Amanda M. Williams

4 Abou B. Amara, Jr.

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20 **Laronica Johnson and the *Perkins* Plaintiffs'**
21 **Proposed Interim Lead Counsel for the**
22 **Putative Plaintiff Class.**

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